[श्री शिवप्रसाद चनपुरिया]

मेरे पास कुछ ऐसी जानकारी आई है कि एक ही गांव के आठ मवेशी--गाय, खास कर जो गाभिन थीं, उन्हें एक ही दिन में शेर ने खा लिया और यह घटना दिसम्बर, 1989 में हुई थी। आज से दस दिन पहले तक उन्हें वन विभाग के द्वारा मुआवजा नहीं दिया गया था।

तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इन नियमों में जो जटिलतायें हैं, उन्हें साधारण, सामान्य किया जाये। ग्राम पंचायत के पंचों द्वारा तसदीक किया हुआ प्रमाण-पत्र माना जाये और उसके अनुसार गांव में ही जाकर उन्हें मुआवजा दिया जाये।

मैं एक और बात की ओर आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं कि वनवासी जिस तरह से वन विभाग द्वारा तंग किये जा रहे हैं उसके कारण ही मध्य प्रदेश में नक्सलवादी आतंक ज्यादा फैल रहा है और नक्सलवादियों को इन वनवासियों का सहयोग मिलने लगा है जो घटनायें मध्य प्रदेश में हो रही हैं उसका कारण ज्यादातर वनवासियों को आधिकारियों के द्वारा तंग किया जाना है और उनको उनके अधिकार न दिये जाना यह मुख्य कारण है। इसलिये उपसभापति महोदया, मैं चाहता हूं कि शासन वन्य प्राणी संरक्षण अधिनियम में संशोधन करे और उसे सरल बनाये। धन्यवाद।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Special Mentions are over. We will now take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion. Mr. Upendra. We have to abide by the time. So, take half an hour. Half an hour means not for you alone but for the whole discussion.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: You are ordering him to take half an hour and again you are saying not for him alone.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why he has got a smile on his face.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Half an hour and not more!

...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Today half an hour is going to be half an hour.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, you and I have been here for a long time. We know that half an hour means five hours?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. We are starting a new page in the conduct of our business. So please confine yourself to the subject and I must tell you—this will not be included in your time—half-an-Hour discussion means discussion by the Member in whose name it has come and only if I permit can somebody ask a question but can't discuss. I have some names. It is not me for you and you can raise the issue. Mr. Pachouri, whose name is listed can speak. But please confine yourself to the subject so that the Minister can reply within half an hour

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Thanks for the enlightenment. Madam I really sympathize with the plight of the Home Minister and I do not want harass him further.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thanks, on his behalf.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Thank you.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION ON POINTS ARISING OUT OF ANSWER GIVEN ON 17TH JULY 1991 TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 62 RE COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO ASSASSINATION OF SHRI RAJIV GANDHI

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, in his reply to Starred Question No. 62 on July 17, 1991 the Minister dealt with the progress of the inquiry into the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. At that time we thought that the reply, due to various reasons, was inconclusive and not to our satisfaction. Therefore, we asked for this Half-an-Hour Discussion.

Madam, we have always been suspecting, since the assassination, that

there was a deeper conspiracy behind the assassination. It is not as simple as that. The manner in which it was planned so meticulsouly and executed so ruthiessly indicates that there is something behind this assassination.

The SIT and the CBI showed extraordinary promptness and alacrity in trying to establish that the LTTE was behind the assassination. No doubt they have been able to establish the links of some of the LTTE cadres with the incident, but the behaviour of some politicians and the policemen at time of the assassination creates doubts in the public mind. The death of Shanmugam under custody on the 20th of this month, in mysterious circumstanecs, further confirms our suspicious. Though I do believe that the LTTE cadres are involved in this, I doubt whether the LTTE leadership was behind the decision to eliminate Shri Rajiv Gandhi at that particular momem. Definitely some other agencies—both external and internal—are involved in this and they might have used some of the LTTE cadres in this operation. Therefore, this con-

6.00 P.M. spiracy has to be unearthed and the truth has to be cmwfy . ..00..6 4cmwfy shrd mm mm brought out. Sir, irresponsible statements were made by some ruling party Members accusing some prominent leaders of the Opposition of involvement in the assassination. They were irresponsible statements which we condemned at that time.

Therefore, we are all the more eager and anxious to know the truth. That is why we wanted enlargement of the terms of reference of the Verma Commission so that they would not only go into the limited aspect of the security lapses but would also probe deeper into the matter just like what the Thakkar Commission has done.

The hon. Home Minister promised —the assurance was given on the 17th—that within the next two, three days the Government would take a decision and announce it to Parliament.

Madam, almost, why almost, a week has passed now. I do believe that the Government has taken a decision in the matter. I would like to ask the hon. Home Minister to take the House into confidence and tell us whether the terms of reference of the Verma Commission have been enlarged or not.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदया, टर्म्स आफ रिफरेंस को एनलार्ज करने के संबंध में आपने हाफ एन आवर डिस्कशन के माध्यम से बोलने की इजाजत दी है, इसमें तीन चीजें महत्वपूर्ण हैं। पहली बात तो है कि राजीव जी की जो हत्या हुई उसमें क्या कोई सेक्युरिटी लैप्स था? दूसरा, उनको जो सुरक्षा प्रदान की गयी थी, क्या वह पर्याप्त थी? जो सेक्यूरिटी सेट अप था, क्या उसमें कोई डिफिसिएंसी थी? तीसरी बात जो वर्मा कमीशन को देखनी है, वह यह है कि इन दोनों चीजों को देखने के बाद यह सुझाव कि भविष्य में ऐसी घटना न होने पाए उसके लिए सुरक्षा उपायों में और क्या सुधार किए जाने आवश्यक है?

महोदया, इसके लिये जो आवश्यक बात है, वह यह है कि किस समय, किन परिस्थितियों में और किस वातावरण में राजीव जी की हत्या हुई? निश्चित रूप से समय चुनाव का समय था, वातावरण एक ऐसा वातावरण था कि वह विषैला वातावरण बन दिख गया था क्योंकि वह राजनीतिक दल से संबंधित थे। एक राजनीतिक दल का नेतृत्व कर रहे थे, तो निश्चित रूप से कुछ निहित स्वार्थी तत्व जिसमें कुछ राजनीतिक पार्टियां भी शामिल थीं, वह एक ऐसा वातावरण बना रही थीं जिससे उनके प्रति घृणा लोगों के मन में पैदा हो। तो जहां टर्म्स आफ रिफरेंस के एनलार्जमेंट की बात है तो मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वहां उसमें इस चीज को भी शामिल किया जाए कि क्या चुनाव के समय तक एक ऐसा वातावरण निर्मित किया गया जिसकी वजह से कि उनके प्रति लोगों के मन में घृणा पैदा हो। अगर ऐसी कोई बात थी तो कौन-कौनसी ताकतें उसके लिए जिम्मेदार थीं?

[श्री सुरेश पचौरी]

साथ ही, होदया, यह बात भी हमारे और आपकी जानकारी में आई है कि उनकी हत्या के बाद विदेशों में खुशियां मनायी गयीं, विशेष रूप से जापान में खुशियां मनायी गयीं। तो निश्चित रूप से उनकी हत्या की साजिश में शुमार यहां के लोग हो सकते हैं बल्कि निश्चित रूप से विदेशी लोग भी उसमें हो सकते हैं। जब वे खुशियां मना सकते हैं तो निश्चित रूप से उनकी भी भागीदारी इसमें हो सकती है। तो जहां हम एनलाईजमेंट की बात कर रहे हैं तो हम को उन ताकतों को भी देखना होगा, उन ताकतों की भी जांच करना जरूरी होगी कि जो इंटरनल और एक्सटर्नल फोर्सेस हैं। साथ ही, आगे आनेवाली समय में कैसी सुरक्षा व्यवस्था हो, जब यह देखने की बात है तो यह भी विचार करने और निर्णय लेने की बात है कि चुनाव के समय एक दूसरे के प्रति, चाहे कोई कैसी भी राजनीतिक दल से संबंधित क्यों न हो, एक ऐसा विषैला वातावरण निर्मित करने की इजाजत कैसी भी राजनीतिक दल को न दी जाय, इस संबंध में निश्चित रूप से लैजस्लेशन आना चाहिए, ऐसा मेरा आपके माध्यम से सुझाव है। ऐसा मेरा आपके माध्यम से सुझाव है।

महोदया, यहां सिक्योरिटी के सेटअप की बात इस जांच आयोग को करना है वहीं एस. आई. टी. के सेटअप के बारे में भी विचार करना चाहिए। यहां सक्योरिटी लेप्स की जांच होगी, सिक्योरिटी के लिए निश्चित रूप से इंटेलीजेन्स ब्यूरो के अधिकारी और दूसरे अधिकारी होते हैं, वहीं एस. आई. टी. में भी वही अधिकारी शामिल हैं। इसलिए एस.आई.टी. का भी सेटअप किस ढंग का हो, इस बात का भी उसमें उल्लेख होना चाहिए। ऐसा मेरा सुझाव है।

महोदया, राजीव जी "जेड" केटेगरी में थे। "जेड" केटेगरी के महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्ति को किस ढंग का सुरक्षा घेरा होना चाहिए? क्या वह घेरा की गई? और, घेराबंदी की गई सिक्योरिटी कवरेज नहीं दी गई तो उसके लिए जो-जो जिम्मेदार हैं, उनके खिलाफ तो कार्यवाही हो ही और साथ ही एस.आई.टी में, उस संस्था से जुड़े हुए जो लोग जिम्मेदार हैं, उसके बारे में भी विचार करना जरूरी है। साथ ही उन कारणों पर भी विचार करना जरूरी है, जिनकी वजह से ऐसी स्थिति निर्मित हुई कि राजीव जी की हत्या करने का मन हत्यारों ने बनाया।

महोदय, उन संबंधों को भी जाहिर करने की जरूरत है, जो इन लोगों के बीच में थे चाहे वह लट्टे के लोग हों या राजनीतिक दलों के लोग, जिन्होंने इस हत्या में अपनी भागीदारी निभाई है। जिन विदेशी ताकतों का मैंने जिक्र किया है, उन पर भी विचार करना जरूरी है। निश्चित रूप से राजीव गांधी ने जो स्टेण्ड एक थर्ड वर्ल्ड लीडर के रूप में समय-समय पर लिया और जो वेस्ट एशियन क्राइसेस थीं उसमें जो ईराक के संबंध में और ईरान के संबंध में राजीव जी ने जो स्टेण्ड लिया, उस पर भी, जब आप दायरा बढ़ाने जा रहे हैं, तो उस पर भी विचार करना जरूरी है। इसलिए इस राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण को भी अपने जांच जरूरी है। महोदया, ऐसा मेरा आपके माध्यम से आग्रह है।

अन्तिम प्रश्न मेरा यह है कि जहां इस आयोग को यह कहा गया है कि वह अपनी रिपोर्ट तीन महीने में सबमीट करे, जब इसको व्यापक रूप देने जा रहे हैं तो व्यापकता बढ़ाने की वजह से, उसकी समय-सीमा में वृद्धि नहीं की जानी चाहिए। ऐसा मेरा आपके माध्यम से आग्रह है, महोदया। धन्यवाद।

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I am on a point of order. The Home Minister is going ot reply to the other discussion tomorrow morning. May I suggest that the reply to this discussion may also be combined with that so that he can answer all the points at a time? They are all related matters.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no such provision to spill it over to the next day. It has to be finished today. Whatever points you have raised, he may take a note of the things. If he does not have in-

)rmation on some points, he can eply to them tomorrow. That is a different thing. But he must reply)r this half-an-hour discussion and ve should finish it today. We cannot pill it over to the next day.

According to the rules, I can)remit the Members only pointed questions. Now, Mr. Vishvjit P. Singh. Please put only one question because we should, not overstep our)ob.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra): Madam, I crave your indulgence. I am not going to take very much time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am just trying to implement what is within my right. I will permit you to put questions.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: Madam, I beg you with folded hands.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. You do not have to beg me. It is your right to put questions.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: I crave your indulgence. Please allow me a little leniency. Allow me exactly three minutes by the clock. It is good enough for me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister should get at least fifteen minutes to answer to the hon. Member's points.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: I will not take more than three minutes. Madam, I would like to quote from the proceedings of this House, dated 4th June, 1991:

> "My only ponit is, this is the situation in which we are living. Rajiv Gandhi's assassination is a matter of great concern to all of us. We will have to enlarge the scope of the inquiry commission because I have my own doubts whether any outside power is also involved in this.
>
> This is just a suspicion. I don't have any evidence at my disposal, but this is my political reading. Is it a fact or not? That is why I said in the beginning that the terms of reference of the Commission will have to be enlarged to cover all these aspects..."

Madam, this was spoken by the hon. Home Minister, Shri S. B. Chavan when he was not the Home Minister. My question to him is: Has he changed his mind or is he going to stick to what he has said? Is he going to enlarge the terms of reference of the Commission?

Part (b) of my question relates to what was said by the then Prime Minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar in this House. He said:

> "The day I had a letter from the President of the Congress Party, within one hour I replied back. I got his suggestions. But it has to be discussed at other levels. Whatever suggestions are there would be accepted without any comma or full stop; nothing will be changed. But all of us know the implications. Certain implications are there. As you know, a Supreme Court Judge has already been appointed as the Inquiry Commission. The Government, on its own, *suo motu*, cannot take a decision. We shall discuss it with Justice Verma and then whatever changes are necessary will be made."

And these changes were suggested by the Congress President, now the Prime Minister of the country, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, who, I know, is consistent in his stand. I would like a categorical answer from the Home Minister in the light of the two observations which I have brought in front of the House. What will the Home Minister say? Will he enlarge the terms or the scope of the inquiry, especially in the light of what has happened recently? Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharjee. Question, please.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Thank you. In order to come to the question, even if it is a very short one, a preamble might be neecssary.

The former Prime Minister, Mr Chandra Shekhar, in this very House, tried to explain—I am not a lawyer myself; therefore, I cannot say how far that was correct or not —that once a Supreme Court Judge had been appointed to go into the matter, its scope could not be expanded without consulting the Supreme Court. My only apprehension, Madam, is that in taking this process, the inquiry will be delayed so much that the very purpose of the inquiry will be very successfully defeated, if any such object exists in the mind of anybody. While saying this, I am conscious of the fact that this Verma Commission has not yet landed. The question is, when it will land when its terms of reference will be complete. Therefore, with the question of terms of reference, the question of expeditious inquiry is invariably connected. Judges are not famous for their quckness or promptitude, as a matter of course. And if circumstances are offered to facilitate the delay, then we have to thank just overselves; I would say, just the Minister and also ourselves. Unless it is cleared, the climate of animus that has been created in the country won't be cleared. Innuendo, direct accusation and what not, are in the air always when discussion is held here or outside. Therefore, Madam, I would request the Home Minister to come out with his decision immediately to include in the terms of reference, the question of any foreign connection, say of the U.S.A. The present inquiry concentrates practically on local relations. The LTTE is practically a localised organisation. Therefore, the question of any foreign connection has to be very seriously gone into because it is our belief that ... (*Interruptions*)... whatever may be our estimate of Rajiv Gandhi's greatness or otherwise, the fact remains that in the midst of elections, this assassination was designed to destabilise the country. (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhattacharjee, please put your question.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: The Shanmugam episode should also be included in the terms of reference. Thank you, Madam.

उपसभापति : डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय जी, सवाल पूछियेगा सिर्फ ।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैं केवल प्रश्न पूछ रहा हूं ।

उपसभापति : हां, एक सवाल ।

डा० रत्नाकर पांडेय : मैडम, मैं आपको बधाई दे रहा हूं । माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, राजीव जी की नृशंस हत्या के संबंध में जो वर्मा कमीशन की स्थापना हुई है उस संदर्भ में मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि राजीव जी की सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी जिन लोगों को दी गयी थी वह पुरानी सरकार द्वारा दी गयी थी और उन्हीं लोगों की एस०आई०पी० की टीम बनायी गयी है, जिस पर से इस देश के नागरिकों का विश्वास उठ चुका है, इस षणयुगम् के पलायन के बाद । तो इस टीम को नष्ट करके, उसको समाप्त करके क्या दूसरी एस० आई० टी० की टीम बनाने पर गृह मंत्री जी विचार कर रहे है ? ईमानदारी से यह टीम काम कर पाये, इस पर सबको शंका है और राजीव जी की हत्या देश के भीतरी और बाहरी साजिश से हुई है, विश्व में भी किसी को अविश्वास नहीं रहा गया है । विदेशी ताकतें इसमें निश्चित रूप से इन्वोल्व हैं । एस० आई०टी० की जो आगे टीम बन रही है उसमें किस तरह के इंटेलीजेंस के आफिसर्स को आपकी सरकार रखने का विचार रखती है, यह भी मैं जानना चाहता हूं । सदन में उठाया गया था कि वर्मा कमीशन को पर्याप्त स्टाल

और जो अन्य सुविधायें जांच कमीशन को मिलती हैं, वह नहीं मिली हैं। मेडम कांड की जांच कर रहे जज ने इस्तीफा दे दिया। इसी लिये कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं है कि इसमें न्यायाधीश वर्मा जी के नेतृत्व में जो कमीशन बैठा है वह इस्तीफा दे देगा? तो उनको पर्याप्त सुविधायें दी जायें और जो विदेशी ताकतें इन्वोल्वड हैं और इस देश के जो कुछ सफेदपोश नेताओं का जो इसमें हाथ है, उन सब को पकड़े जाने के लिये और उनको बेनकाब करने लिये यह सरकार टर्म्स आफ रिफरेंस में क्या-क्या नयी चीजें डालना चाहती है, वह मंत्री जी इस पर प्रकाश डालें? (समय की घंटी) आपने मैडम, घंटी बजा दी है, मैं अनुशासित सदस्य की तरह बैठ रहा हूं।

डा० अबरार अहमद (रजस्थान): मैडम, एक क्वेश्चन।

उपसभापति: बस, एक क्वेश्चन बस क्वेश्चन।

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to ask a few pointed questions from the hon. Home Minister. Is it correct that the terms of reference of Justice Verma Commission enquiring into the assassination of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi are confined only to the lapses or the dereliction of duty on the part of any individual responsible for the security and the deficiencies in the system and the arrangements which might have contributed to the assassination? Has the then Prime Miniser on the 4th June 1991, given any undertaking or assurance on the floor of Rajya Sabha to enlarge the terms of reference of the Verma Commission and if so, in what manner? Is the present Government satisfied with the terms of reference of enquiry referred to the Verma Commission and if not, what steps it has so far taken and what further steps it proposes to take to enlarge the terms of reference and the reasons for the delay thereon?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri John. F Fernandes. His name is Shri John F. Fernandes and not Shri George Fernandes. Invariably, on the television, his name is reported as George Fernandes. Shri George Fernandes is not a Member of Rajya Sabha. He is a Member of Lok Sabha. Anybody who is going to report should report the correct name of our Member.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, the other day, the hon. Home Minister stated in (a) part of his reply that the main terms of reference of the Verma Commission would be to find out whether there has been a lapse on the part of any of the individuals responsible for his security. We know that the former Prime Ministers' security arrangements are covered under the "Blue Book" and it is the duty of the intelligence agencies, that is the IB and the RAW, to find out whether there was any conspiracy. We know this crime was so well executed that there should have been a conspiracy. The terms of reference of the Verma Commission have excluded all these intelligence agencies from its purview. I want an assurance from the hon. Home Minister that these agencies will also be covered under the purview of this Commission.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (बिहार): मैडम, चार-पांच दिन पहले मेरा और पी०उपेन्द्र जी का एक सवाल था जिस पर आधे घंटे से अधिक बहस हुई लेकिन लोगों को संतोष नहीं हुआ और फिर यह निर्णय हुआ कि इस पर हाफ-एन-आवर डिस्कशन हो। मैं गृह मंत्री जी से साफ तौर से केवल दो बातों की जानकारी चाहूंगा। एक तो यह कि जस्टिस वर्मा आयोग का कार्यकाल कितने दिन का होगा? महोदया, एक डैफिनेट डेट इसके लिये तय की जाय

[श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह]

कि कब तक यह कमीशन अपनी रिपोर्ट देगा । दूसरे बात मे यह जानना चाहता हूं कि श्रीलंका सरकार । इस संबंध में किस तरह का सहयोग लिया जा रहा है और क्या श्रीलंका सरकार इस पूर्ण सहयोग दे रही है या नही ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Madam Deputy Chairperson, the kind of questions which are asked by the hon. Members refer to mostly the enlargement of the terms of reference besides the other things also which are mentioned. I will definitely stand by what I said when I was not the Home Minister. It was not merely for the sake of opposition that I had said something when I was on that side of the House. That is why I sincerely feel that it is not only the LTTE but there are other forces also which, in fact, are very deeply involved. LTTE might be an instrument in the hands of some other power, but at the same time we have to appreciate the fact that when this operation is done, it is done in a very meticulous way. It is not so easy to point out which exactly is the agency. Though we can say that this can be the agency, yet we must as to whether any particular agency have some kind of a clue to establish can be pointed out and whether some kind of evidence is being produced to fix the responsibility on that particular agency. This is going to be one of our difficulties.

Madam, hon. Shri Upendra is not here....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He took my permission before leaving the House.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: He also told me that he had some work, that is why he was going. I am in full agreement with him when he says that some agencies, inside agencies and outside agencies, are involved, but at the same time we must bear in mind that at the time of elections the kind of propaganda which is being indulged in by different political parties, knowingly or unknowingly, creates a situation wherein a particular person is being targeted. Whether it is correct or not, it is a democratic process, all political parties will have to search their own hearts and then find out as to how far this aspect of the question is borne in mind by all the political parties, whether it is in the fitness of things to make any particular person a target—I can understand policies of a political party being criticised by another political party—whether a political party pointing to a particular person making him the target as it happened at the time of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, is correct. At the time of Shrimati Indira Gandhi it was stated: "If she is eliminated, then the Congress will totally collapse." But everyone in the world has seen that in spite of elimination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi the Congress has continued, the Congress policies have continued and Rajiv Gandhi worked with double the vigour in order to see that these policies succeeded in this country.

Now again, an attempt was made to see that the Congress was defeated and in order to defeat the Congress everybody in the country and outside thought that if Rajiv Gandhi was eliminated, then, of course, the Congress would not have any future in the country. Our present Prime Minister and also all of us think that the Congress has a particular policy which we have been following and there is no reason as to why this kind of a thinking should continue in the minds of people, outside and inside, that once you finish a particular person the Congress policies are going to be totally finished in this country. This is not a fact which can be borne out

by any of the statements which they have made.

Now, something has been stated here about which I am going to reply tomorrow and that is about Shanmugham's suicide which has been reported in the press and I have made a statement about that. That aspect I am going to reply tommorow.

About the enlargement of the terms of reference we did make a statement. I am prepared to admit that fact that we said, within three or four days we will be able to take a final decision about it. Now, I propose to give the latest information. The question of modifying the terms of reference of Verma Commission of Inquiry has been agitating the hon'ble Members. Justice J.S. Verma, a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court, was appointed in consultation with the Chief Justice of India to inquire into the assassination of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India. Certain terms of reference were set out in the notification constituting the Commission. The Supreme Court is of the opinion that such terms should be given to a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court which fall within the purview of the legitimate functions of a sitting Judge. The Commission is prepared to inquire into the sequence of events, security lapses, deficiencies in security system and arrangements which contributed to the commission of the assassination and recommend corrective measures and measures thereto. The other aspects, viz. investigation and conspircy, are by their very nature within the scope of the functions of the investigating agency which is engaged in the task of investigation of the crime. It was pointed out that this should not be investigated by a sitting Judge. On receipt of this view, discussion has been initiated at the highest level to see as to how the modifications in the terms of reference could be made. Some correspondence has been exchanged in this matter and there has been a forward movement in our discussion with the Chief Justice of India. I would like to assure the hon'ble Members that the matter has been pursued with utmost seriousness and urgency on our side. However, as I have stated, we have to take further steps in consultation with the Supreme Court and this would take some time. Hon'ble Members may bear with us for the period. Thank you.

ANNOUCEMENT RE. ALLOCATION TIME FOR DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER BUSINESS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to make certain announcements. I have to inform the Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, the 25th July,